GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7308
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
INDIAN WORKERS IN GULF COUNTRIES
SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian workers in various Gulf Countries and the number of those hailing from Kerala;

(b) whether Indian embassies in these countries have received representations from these workers regarding harassment by employers during 2001-2002; and

(c) if so, the nature of the complaints received and the action taken to redress their grievances?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Over 3 million Indian workers are employed in various Gulf countries and more than 50 percent of them belong to Kerala.

(b)&(c) No, Sir. However, from time to time our Embassies in Gulf countries do receive complaints from Indian workers there relating to violation of contractual obligations by their employer(s) such as non-payment or delayed payment of salaries, long working hours, inadequate accommodation/food, refusal to grant permission to visit India on leave or for emergencies etc.

Such complaints are promptly attended to by our Embassies with the employer(s) and, if necessary, with the concerned authorities through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The response of the Gulf authorities in case of labour complaints is generally sympathetic.